

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION  
Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date  
March 10, 2010  
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger, chair  
Mary Deitz  
Linda Borghols  
Patrick Pillai  
Amy Simpson

Community Members/Guests:

Sarah Souders  
Geri Benshoof  
Barb Chambers  
Lisa Balivet

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:  
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**Welcome from the Chair**

***Welcome New Members and Guests***

Committee members introduced themselves to Barb Chambers, who works for Stone Soup Group, and is also a parent of a daughter with disabilities.

**Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

There was no quorum and the approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting. There was no quorum to approve the agenda.

**Correspondence**

Debbie Kitelinger stated that Jane Atuk from the Early Intervention Program contacted the EIC requesting names of parents who are experts about their own experiences, and she would like them to share those experiences in a discussion about best practices and be part of a review panel for service delivery guidelines. These parents would be asked to give input and participate in reviewing and commenting on the draft materials via website postings, teleconferences, and possibly a face-to-face meeting. They would like to have the names of parents by March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Teresa Holt asked that if anyone has any suggestions on parents who might be interested in participating in that, just let her or Debbie know.

**Review of Indicators 8 (Part C) and 12 (Part B)**

Teresa Holt stated that indicator 8 reads: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community service by their third birthday including:

- A. Has an IFSP with transition steps and services
- B. Notification to the local school district if the child is potentially eligible
- C. A transition conference if the child is potentially eligible for preschool services.

Teresa stated that the data for A is 99.2 percent. There were only three out of 377 children that did not have that on their IFSP. The data for B was 100 percent. The data for C was 355 out of 377 or 94.16 percent.

Teresa Holt stated that for A and C, the State improvement activities are as follows:

- Local EIS programs data review was a grant requirement and provided oversight to local programs in the monitoring system.
- Highlighted program strategies related to successful transitions during monthly teleconferences.
- Local programs were required to submit improvement plans yearly and monitor data.

Linda Borghols added that issues are being addressed on an individual grantee basis. They will monitor the progress, and hopefully they will see the effects in next year's report.

Teresa Holt stated that indicator 12 of Part B reads: Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3 who are found eligible for Part B and have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthday. She stated that there are some measurements that they put together and multiply by 100. Teresa stated that the data is 90.5 percent.

Amy Simpson stated that they need to get clarification from Susan Steele as to what defines "prior to age 3".

Teresa noted that the number of students who were late under Part C is 22, and the number of students determined eligible after their third birthday is 22, so that number appears to correlate. Lisa Balivet stated that she doesn't believe that these numbers are comparable anymore. She stated that they are required to do a notification at 27 months of age and it is automated. They do not need to have parent approval for notification. Parents can opt out if they do not want that information to go to the school district. The transition meeting is 90 days before the child turns 3.

Teresa Holt read Lisa Balivet information from the indicators that appears to show that the 22 children between Part B and Part C seem to correlate.

Teresa Holt stated that there are 30 improvement activities for Part B and

she referred the committee members to pages 82, 83, and 84 of the indicator. Some of the activities deal with ATTI, and Debbie Kitelinger stated that they need to continue to support ATTI.

Teresa Holt also highlighted improvement activity number 22, which is: The Department of Education in collaboration with Health and Social Services is developing an online e-learning module of transitions from Part C to B. Debbie Kitelinger stated that module is finished.

Teresa Holt stated that they can suggest that ILP coordinators and special ed directors make that mandatory for new hires to review the e-learning module once it is up and running.

Amy Simpson gave a suggestion for transition between Part C and Part B. She stated that perhaps there can be conversations about the numbers that seem to correlate between Part C and Part B. She wondered if there could be a joint explanation about how these numbers correlate. Lisa Balivet stated that she will take this back to Sharon and Erin and see if they can get some information.

Teresa Holt added that when they did their site visits in Anchorage, they heard from some districts that they received the notification, but they didn't have a system developed to use it. One suggestion might be for the Department of Education to check and make sure that the information isn't just stopping at the district special ed office and that it's actually getting to the people who need to have it.

### **Progress on the Work Plan**

#### ***Advocate for Student Loan Forgiveness***

Teresa Holt stated that House Bill 235 is that the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education shall provide adequate funding for not fewer than five students to attend four-year programs in each of the following fields: Dentistry, optometry and pharmacy. She stated that they might look at this House bill to look at creating something similar for early childhood or speech therapy, et cetera. She stated that they could look at it in terms of a limited number of students instead of a whole loan forgiveness program.

Teresa stated that there is a hearing for the Governor's Performance

Scholarship in both the House and the Senate. The bills for this scholarship are SB 224 and HB 297. They require a student to get a diploma, which means they have to pass the exit exam. Students are also required to take four years of math, four years of language arts, four years of science, and three years of social studies.

### ***Preschool Survey Update and Assist DEED in Creating a Preschool Listserv***

Teresa Holt stated that they have sent out the preschool surveys to the e-mail addresses that they were given, and they got 29 of the 54 districts to respond. She will follow up next week and contact the districts that did not respond.

### ***Early Childhood Networking Forum***

Teresa Holt stated that the dates are May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage at the Hilton Hotel. She stated that she isn't sure if they are accepting registrations yet, but they are asking for teams of people such as a parent, an ILP provider, a preschool person, a kindergarten teacher, a Head Start person, et cetera, to come from a community. People can come on their own if they want to, but Teresa believes they will be connected with the team from their community if possible.

### ***APR Review***

Teresa Holt stated that a group did a quick review of the APR and gave Lisa a few suggestions.

### **Report from OCS/ILP**

Linda Borghols stated that they are working hard on their meetings coming up at the end of March which include partnering with parents, teachers, and the Early Head Start Program on the 25<sup>th</sup> and then the coordinators meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Linda stated that Meghan Johnson is working hard on professional

development and will have her committee meeting the last week in March. Jane Atuk is heading up the work on the service delivery modules.

Linda stated that their RFP is now posted online so folks can go to the State of Alaska website and submit their proposals if they so choose.

Linda stated that they have almost completed the final draft of the Family Rights Booklet and she will send that to Teresa Holt so she can distribute it to the other EIC members for review and comment by the first week in April.

### ***Review of the IFSP***

Linda Borghols stated that their I-T team is working on getting the IFSP ready to be online. They will do some pilot testing of it before it becomes a part of their work plans.

Amy Simpson added that she was on the work group that went through the Part C regulations and looked at several IFSPs from different states. They put together the elements that they liked from each one of those to try to create an IFSP that is more family friendly and fulfills all of the requirements that Part B is looking for in an IFSP.

Debbie Kitelinger stated that she would like to have a small group of people review the draft version and make comments. Amy Simpson volunteered. Teresa Holt stated that she will e-mail all the parents on this committee to see if they would be interested in participating. Linda Borghols also commented that it is still being tweaked and the formatting will look different. Teresa Holt stated that they will put that on hold until they ask Lisa Balivet if she would prefer that they review it now or wait for comment when it is in the final draft form.

### ***EIC Representation on State ILP Committees***

Teresa Holt stated that the committees are: Professional Development, Forms, Regulations, Service Delivery Models, and TACSEI.

Amy Simpson stated that she is on all of the committees except for the TACSEI committee. Mary Deitz is on the Forms committee, Debbie Kitelinger is on the Regulations committee, and Eric Gebhart is on the

TACSEI committee. They need two to three volunteers to review the service delivery models.

Debbie Kitelinger asked the committee members e-mail her and Teresa Holt after every meeting and give a summary update at the next teleconference.

### **Report from AILPA**

Amy Simpson stated that she sent out a notice for participants for the service delivery model core work group so they could get experts in those areas to also be a part of that plan.

### **Report from DEED**

There was no representative from DEED to give a report at this meeting.

### **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

Teresa Holt stated that TACSEI had a three-day training on the preschool/early childhood pyramid model which was well attended. She stated that the RFP is supposed to come out next month for the three pilot sites. There is also an application process for people who are interested in being a pyramid early childhood PBS trainer.

Barb Chambers stated that she attended the Alaska Association of Education of Young Children (AAEYC) conference, and stated that it was well attended and people were getting good information.

Teresa Holt stated that the Deaf Bilingual Coalition came up and did three different trainings for parents, professionals and teachers. She stated that it was not well received by everyone, but the message was that when someone has a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, it is a good idea to teach them sign language even if the child uses a cochlear implant or hearing aides just in case the technology fails.

Barb Chambers stated that Stone Soup Group hosted their first parent support group for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It will continue to be a monthly potluck. It was very well attended and they had 17 children and 15 adults participate.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the EIC will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Teresa Holt stated that the dates they had set for the face-to-face meeting in the fall will not work due to conflicts of the Department of Education staff. Debbie Kitelinger stated that they can discuss the dates and location at the next teleconference.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.